REMARKS

Claims 1-29 were pending prior to this amendment. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14-19 and 22-27 have been amended. Claims 7, 12, 13, 20, 21, 28 and 29 have been cancelled. At least in light of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the basis of being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0198063 (Thomas, et al.), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0117280 (Prehn).

Applicants wish to "swear behind" the Prehn reference. Although the December 20, 2001 effective filing date for §102(e) purposes of Prehn predates the effective filing date of the present application (present application filed December 28, 2001), Applicants actually reduced the claimed invention to practice prior to the December 20, 2001 effective filing date of Prehn. Attached is a Section 131 Declaration signed by the inventors of the present application that attests to prior actual reduction to practice of present invention as well a printout of an invention submission form (Exhibit A) that corroborates the testimonial evidence in the Section 131 Declaration.

Even if Prehn were prior art (which it is not), none of the references teach at least the feature of a router configured to send one or more communications over the wide area network for logging into an instant messenger application as a client in response to receiving an event signal from one of the appliances and independently of the operational status of any computers for which the router provides network address translation service. *See* at least page 13, lines 14-25 and page 16, lines 5-10.

Thomas discloses a home monitor server 112 (FIG. 1) that stores reference images of the home location 102. The home monitor server 112 compares live images received from the camera 302, 304 and 306 (FIG. 3) in the house to the stored reference images. When a change is observed, the home monitor server 112 pages emails or calls a user to notify the user. *See* paragraph 078.

Prehn discloses a personal computer (PC) 12 (FIG. 1) that records images captured by a USB camera 14. When an intruder is detected in the images, the PC 12 transmits an instant message 16 to notify a user of the intruder. *See* paragraph 022.

In contrast, claim 1 includes a router that provides address translation for packets exchanged between a private home network and a wide area network and that logs into an instant messenger program to notify a user of an event signal from an appliance regardless of whether computers behind the router are turned off to save power, locked up, physically damaged, unplugged, etc. *See* page 13, lines 14-25. Thus, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2-6 are dependant and should also be allowed. Claim 7 has been cancelled.
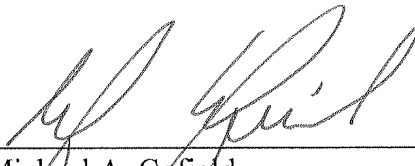
Claims 8-11, 14-19 and 22-27 have been amended and should be allowed for at least similar reasons as claims 1-6. Claims 12, 13, 20, 21, 28 and 29 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 503-222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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